A 5

Seaſonable Warning,

FROM THE

DANGER

WE ARE IN FROM

Trafficking *Prieſts* and *Jeſuites*:

IN

Three *MISSIVES*;

Sent from ſome Gentlemen in the *Country*, to their Friends in the *City*.

Ezek. xxiii. 14. 15. 16. ----- *for when ſhe ſaw Men Pourtrayed upon the Wall, the Images of the Caldeans Pourtrayed with Vermilion* ----- *ſhe doted upon them and ſent Meſſengers unto them into Caldea.*

Printed in the Year, 1734.

ADVERTISEMENT.

TO THE

READER.

THAT whereas the Emiſſaries of *Rome*, are Reſtleſs, in ſomuch that they Compaſs Sea and Land, to make Proſylites; and that much about the Date of the Firſt of the Letters hereunto annexed; we were Adviſed, in the publick Prints, how openly *Prieſts* were Trafficking, and what great Succeſs they had in ſeveral Places of *Britain*, and particularly that ſeveral *Maſs-houſes* were ſet up in the *City* of *London*. And if together with theſe we Conſider, how well the Church of *Rome* informs her ſelf, of the State of Religion the World over, and that now a Days, *Creeds* and *Confeſſions* are openly Decryed, by thoſe who call themſelves *Proteſtants*, and ſicklike, that ſome have been ſo bold, to Caſt the utmoſt Contempt upon the Perſon, Offices, Authority, Miracles, Death and Reſurrection of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt: and others have attempted, a Revival and new Refinement of the old *Arian* Scheme, and a great many there are, who ſet up for the Bright Men of the Age, being ſo Moulded, in what is called Natural Religion, giving it out, as if it were inconſiſtent with their Manly Principles of Reaſon, that their Faith ſhould ſtand in the Power of God, but only in the Wiſdom of Men. This being laid as a Foundation; Humane Wiſdom is extolled, as ſufficient to Direct, and Reaſon powerfull enough to Effect Men's Happineſs, by the means of Moral Virtues. Upon all which Conſiderations, *Rome* may Reaſonably Incourage her ſelf, with the Hopes of good Succeſs, from the Diligence of her Emiſſaries: And that *Glaſgow* ſhould be the firſt conſiderable Place, where they ſhould make Tryal, is not without too good Ground of incouragement, from its

being the firſt Place in this Country, where the *Arian* and other unhappy Opinions were Taught, too ſuitable Doctrines for their Purpoſe. And now when a general Defection, and Falling away from the Exerciſe of Faith and Love, to the Perſon and Mediation of Chriſt prevails; It may juſtly be thought a fit Seaſon for ſuch Traffickers, to exhibite their Artificial Saviour, thereby to learn, if our Humane Artificial Faith, will Receive and Reſt upon him for all the Ends, for which he is ſo Artfully ſet forth, to Dazle the Carnal Eye, and Tickle the Carnal Minds of thoſe, who are taken up with a Religion ſtanding in no Relation to the Chriſt of God. All which being duly Conſidered, may ſufficiently Appologize for the following Miſſives, which are nothing elſe but the Opinion of Orthodox Proteſtant Divines, who have juſtly Condemned, amongſt whom is our Learned, Holy and Judicious Mr. *James Durham*, whoſe Teſtimony againſt that Abomination is to be ſeen on the *Second Command*. And the ſame Spirit of God who Commands us, 1 *Cor.* x. 14. *To flee from Idolatry*, 1 *John* v. 21. *Keep your ſelves from Idols*, Commands us alſo, 1 *Theſſ.* v. 22. *To abſtain from all appearance of evil.* I aſſure all in whoſe Hands theſe may come; it's from no other Conſideration, (theſe together with this, are expoſed to the Publick) but to bear Teſtimony againſt ſuch prevailing Evils, as are herein Mentioned, and the Danger may Enſue from *Jeſuitiſh* Cunning. Such Reſtleſs Adverſaries, are ſtill waiting their Opportunity, and who knows, but the kind Reception this *Artificial Saviour* ſhall meet with, may Incourage the Traffickers to make a New and more Groſs Trial, to Seduce this People. We are Commanded to *ſhun every appearance of evil.* I wiſh nothing that carrys in it, any Incouragement for *Rome's Miſſionaries*, may find favourable Reception in this *Iſland*.

May GOD ſucceed and Bleſs the ſincere tho' weak Indeavours, of every one who wiſheth well to *Zion*, and ſeeks the Peace of *Jeruſalem*.

A

Seaſonable Warning,

FROM THE

DANGER

WE ARE IN FROM

Trafficking *Prieſts* and *Jeſuites*, &c.

Dear Friend,

I Have yours of the 26th of *October*, and am Wounded and Grieved with what you Write me; that a Fellow has been, for ſome Time in your Town, having a Picture drawn with great Art, which he calls, the Picture of our Saviour on the Croſs; at the Sight of which ſome of your Profeſſors ſay, they are more Affected, than in hearing him Preached: And that laſt Week before your Communion Solemnity, the Drum has been going thro' your Town, Inviting to come and ſee the Falſe Chriſt.

This

This Picture of Chriſt among you, is either for a Common Uſe to Repreſent a peice of fine Paint, or for a Religious Uſe; if the former is ſaid to be the Caſe, O! what a dreadfull Profanation is this, of the only Foundation of our Faith and Hope, namely, Redemption thro' the Blood of Jeſus: What Contempt is thereby thrown upon the Perſon, Work and Mediation of him who Suffered theſe Things, and is now entered into his Glory; *who was Dead and is now Alive, and liveth for evermore*: Your Profeſſors muſt be turned Deiſts, if they dare proſtitute, after this manner, the great Goſpel Miſtery, and feed their Carnal Eyes upon ſuch a Spectacle.

But it ſeems your Profeſſors are making a Religious Uſe of the Picture, ſince they are more Affected with the Sight, than with the hearing of Chriſt Preach'd. I cannot but doubt if ſuch, who ſay ſo, were ever ſavingly Affected with the Doctrine of Chriſt Crucified; I am ſure theſe are none of the means of Divine Inſtitution, for conveying any ſaving Impreſſions of a Crucified Chriſt: Nay the Picture of Chriſt on the Croſs is nothing elſe, but the old Curſed Device of Hell and *Rome*, by which many profeſſed Chriſtians have been turned away from Chriſt and become Antichriſtian. Chriſt is ſet forth Crucified in the Ordinances of the Goſpel, in the Word and in the Sacraments. Theſe are the only means of his own appointment, for giving us the ſaving Knowledge and Impreſſions of him. To be Affected with a pretended Picture of Chriſt, is the Groſs Idolatry forbidden in the *Second Commandment*: Your Profeſſors will readily grant, that when they are Affected with the Sight of the Picture, it is a Religious Affection that is raiſed in them, this is Religious Worſhip; What is the Mean that excites this Religious Affection? It is an

Image

Image. Does not their *Catechiſm* tell them, that the Second Command forbiddeth, *the worſhiping of God by Images, or any other way not appointed in his Word.*

O what a blinded and infatuate Generation are we! ah for the Degeneracy of the Place of my Nativity! once ſo famous for a zealous Profeſſion of the Truth of the Goſpel; is the *Beaſt* lifting up his Head in ſuch a bare-fac'd manner in *Glaſgow*? Is open Proclamation made in the Streets of *Glaſgow*? and that immediatly before our New Teſtament Solemnity too: Inviting Men to come and ſee *Babylons Idol God*; are your Profeſſors drinking ſo pleaſantly of the Cup of *Romes* Fornication? I fear it is *the Abomination of Deſolation.* If the firſt Draught of the Cup go ſo well down, their Stomachs may be thereby prepared to Digeſt *the great Miſtery of Iniquity*: You have been exalted unto Heaven by Goſpel priviledges and Bleſſings beſtowed upon you; But where are you now? You have of late been the Seat of Blaſphemy againſt the Son of God, where his Supreme Deity has been Impunged, and many other Groſs and dangerous Errors have been vented, and inſtead of that Zeal, Holineſs, Tenderneſs and Watchfullneſs that was amongſt your Profeſſors, you are over-run with Formality, Sin and Wickedneſs. I am informed that ſuch as are amongſt the Claſs of your Profeſſors, are the great Supporters and Encouragers of theſe Nurſeries of Sin and Wickedneſs; ſuch as Dancing-Balls or Night Aſſemblies, ſo much abounding with you and in other places, theſe are amongſt the Revellings, Rioting and Wantoneſs, Condemned by the Spirit of God; *Rom.* xiii. 13. *Gal.* v. 21. 1 *Pet.* 4. 3. as Contrary to the Truth, Simplicity and Sincerity of the Chriſtian profeſſion. No wonder than that you hugg in your Arms, a *Brat of the ſcarlet coloured Whore, that Mother of Abominations.* O if I could

bemoan

bemoan and Mourn over the deplorable State of the place of my Birth and Education! *How is the Faithfull City become an Harlot, the City wherein Righteouſneſs dwelt*! How is it become the Seat of Error, Sin and Wickedneſs! The Words of thy Seers, of a faithfull *Gilles*, and Weeping *Brown*, and other Witneſſes for the Lord in that place are ſadly verified in thy formality and Degeneracy, and I fear ſhall be accompliſhed in thy Deſolation and Deſtruction. The Day of thy Watchmen even thy Viſitation cometh; *Bleſſed is he that watcheth and keepeth his Garments clean, leaſt he walk naked and they ſee his ſhame.*

I have write this under ſome preſſure of Spirit, and I charge you to Read it to my Friends and Acquaintances, as my Teſtimony againſt the Abominations that are amongſt you, it is from him who was once their fellow Citizen and who is a Debtor unto them; and under the ſtrongeſt Tyes and Obligations, to ſeek to wiſh and pray, for the proſperity of the place of his Nativity, and I hope of his Second Birth too. May the GOD of all Grace preſerve you, and all his People from the Sins and Snares, the Corruptions and Pollutions of this untoward Generation, and preſent you ſpotleſs before his Preſence, at the Day of his Bleſſed and longed for Appearance.

I am

Dear Friend,

Yours in the Lord.

November 2d,
1734.

Dear Friend,

YOurs of the 15th Currant I Received, the Contents are ſatisfying and Refreſhing: As to a further Enlargement on what I wrote before, I cannot at preſent undertake it, with that Accuracy that the importance of the Subject Requires, being Engadged juſt now, in the throng of my ordinary Employment which takes me up every Day from Morning to Evening; however to gratify your Deſire, and the deſire of other Friends, I ſhall add a few Lines unto what I wrote before, which as I remember, was only a ſhort hint at the ſinfullneſs and evil of any Images or Pictures of Chriſt: This is a ſubject that has been treated at large by our Reformed Divines, and a practice that has been fully expoſed, ever ſince the dawning of Reformation light. I ſhall only add that as the manifold Wiſdom of God, his wonderfull Love and all his adorable perfections ſhine forth Glorioufly in the Perſon of our Lord Jeſus, who is *Emmanuel God with us*, ſo he is propoſed to our Faith only in the Word of Divine Revelation, it is then in the Glaſs of his own Word, that we may behold his Glory, by the means of Faith, which is *the evidence of things not ſeen*, thro' the ſpecial Illumination of the Holy Ghoſt, who glorifies Chriſt and ſhews the things of Chriſt. *John* xvi. 14. That is the glory of his Perſon, the fullneſs, the vir-

tue and efficacy of his Death and Mediation, for our Redemption from ſin, for our Juſtification in the ſight of God, and our Reconciliation unto him, and for our begun and progreſſive Sanctification, and our compleat Glorification. Therefore all Carnal Repreſentations of Chriſt, whether in the fancy and imagination or to the bodily Eye, by Images, or Pictures of him are a Deluſion, a Lie and an Indignity done to him, who is the brightneſs of Glory, and the expreſs Image of his Fathers Perſon.

When Men neglect the Word of Divine Revelation, and deſpiſe the Means of Divine Inſtitution, whereby the ſaving Knowledge of Chriſt, and Communion with him, in his Death and Mediation is obtained, the Lord is provocked in a way of Righteous Judgment, to give them up to ſtrong Deluſions to believe a Lie. It was this way that the Grand Apoſtacy from the Truth and ſimplicity of the Goſpel came to a height, in *Antichriſt* that Man of Sin, and all was uſhered in with a dreadfull Inundation of *Arian* and *Pelagian* Hereſies, whereby a more than ordinary Oppoſition was made to the Perſon to the Spirit and Grace of our Lord Jeſus. *They received not the love of the truth that they might be ſaved, and for this cauſe God ſent them ſtrong Deluſion that they ſhould believe a Lie.* 2 *Theſſ.* ii. 10. 11. It is one of the Diſmal ſigns of the Times wherein we live, that theſe very Evils by which Antichriſt was Revealed, are now broke forth with an impetuous Torrent, amongſt the Proteſtant Churches, and there is a ſpeaking Voice and Language in it to *Glaſgow*, (where together with what is mentioned in my former) has been vented and Taught among you, that Corrupt Reaſon and Man's natural Powers in a fallen State (the very Soul of *Pelagianiſm*) have been exalted in ſuch a manner, as muſt tend to the

diſparag.

diſparagment of Divine Revelation, and of the Spirit and Grace of Chriſt: and there is juſt ground to fear that theſe Curſed Weeds have taken too deep Root; Error in Principle is ever attended with looſneſs in Practice. I am ſure the Time has been when ſome of the Practiſes that are amongſt you, would have been treated with a zealous Contempt, and mentioned with the greateſt Indignation. You were once famous for a ſtricte obſervation of the Lord's Day; But your Laxneſs in this, is as much ſpoken of to your ſhame: I have known when it was Reckoned a ſhame and ſcandal for any to be ſeen Idle upon your Streets after publick Worſhip, but it is ſaid, that your Trading Men Aſſemble together in Troops in the moſt publick Place of the City, after publick Worſhip is ended, and that their Converſation is all about their ordinary Trade and Buſſineſs. You have been *Capernaum* like exalted unto Heaven by Goſpel Bleſſings and Priviledges by pure Ordinances and a lively Goſpel Miniſtry, But becauſe of your miſimprovment you have Ground to fear its Puniſhment. The Lord has had many faithfull Witneſſes amongſt you, both in the former Period of this Church, and ſince the wonderfull Revolution. The two that I Named in my laſt, had more than ordinary Impreſſions both of your Degeneracy and alſo of the Lamentable Conſequences of the ſame, as ſome amongſt you may well Remember; And therefore have you not Ground to fear *Capernaum's* puniſhment, becauſe of miſimprovment. But the Evils that are amongſt you prevail thro' all the Corners of the Land, yea thro' all the the *Proteſtant* Churches. Ah what Degeneracy is there amongſt them both in principle and practiſe! The Foundation Stone, laid in *Zion*, by the Hand of Jehovah, is indeed, a Stone of ſtumbling and Rock of

offence to this Generation. O what Contempt is caſt upon his Perſon, his Spirit, his Grace, his Word, his Laws and his Ordinances! Theſe Things threaten that the wound given to the Beaſt may yet be healed, and that the three Days and Half when the Witneſſes ſhall be killed may yet be a Coming. But whatever may be in the womb of Providence, the Faith of all the Lord's People may Reſt upon this, that the Lord Jeſus himſelf, is the Foundation, and founder of *Zion*; he will Build the Temple of the Lord and bear all the Glory. The Crown ſhall yet flouriſh upon his Royal and matchleſs Head, and all his Enemies ſhall be Cloathed with ſhame. O that he may yet Reign gloriouſly in *Scotland*, a Covenanted Land and Nation, a Land frequently devoted to his Obedience and ſervice: May he yet Triumph gloriouſly by the Word of his Grace, may he Ride proſperouſly, and in ſtate, on the Word of Truth, thro' all the three Nations, once Bound by one and the ſame Covenant, to the Obedience and obſervance of his Laws, Ordinances and Inſtitutions. Yea let the whole Earth be filled with his Glory.

November 23d,
1734.

Dear Sir,

I Received yours of Yeſterdays Date, with the Copy of that valuable Letter Mr. ſent to your Friend, anent the Incouragement the Vagrant Stroller (with his ſhow) met with in your City. I am glad of ſuch a *Seaſonable Warning*, and wiſhes it may be allowed to be made publick for the Benefite of this preſent Age, who are ſo ready to be led away into every new Mode and Scheme that are propoſed to, or ſet before them. I am ſorry Religion is under ſo Remarkable Decay in your Place; that theſe Night Aſſemblys or Dancing-Balls is not ſuppreſſed, at leaſt means uſed to Diſcourage them; they are evidently Nurſeries of Licentiouſneſs: I have obſerved a Spirit of Looſneſs and prophanity Remarkably growing ſince the Year 1707, more eſpecially ſince the Year 1712; that a ſore Stroke was given to the Reformation. The City of *Glaſgow* has been highly priviledged ſince the Reformation, in the Year 1638 they had a large Offer of the Goſpel by Mr. *Andrew Cant*, one of the Miniſters at *Aberdeen*, who Preached upon the great Goſpel Subject of the Marriage, of the Kings Son, *Matth.* xxii. at the beginning. And another ſweet Offer of the Goſpel, by the famous Mr. *Samuel Rutherfoord*, on the 2d, of the *Song* at the beginning; both theſe Miniſters Preached at, or about the Opening that Renowned Aſſembly in *Glaſgow* the

the foreſaid Year, ſo mightily did the Word of God prevail there, that the famous Mr. *David Dickſon* was Tranſported from *Irving*, to the Profeſſion of Theology in the Univerſity, and ſoon thereafter Mr. *Robert Bailie* was Tranſported from *Kilwinning*, to be Colleague with Mr. *Dickſon*, in the Profeſſion of Theology; by the Bleſſing of the Lord. the Streams of Goſpel Doctrine were pure, *Running from the River that made Glad the City of God*, and was not then as of late, that People did Cry concerning that Seat of Learning, *there is Death in the Pot, and that the Waters were naught and the Ground barran.* O that the Lord would Caſt in the Salt of his Spirit, that the Waters may be healed. And alſo I may Remark to you, that there was a Spring-tide of the Goſpel upon the back of that Aſſembly, by the Labours and Preaching of theſe two Eminent profeſſors, and by the Miniſterial Labours and Diligence of the ever Renowned, Mrs. *James Durham*, *John Carſtairs* *Andrew Gray* *Patrick Gilleſpie*, *Ralf Rodger*, and *Robert M'ward*; But alas it is to be feared, before that Century Run out, which is near a Period within about four Years, that Place if Mercy prevent not, is like to be as ſignal for Sin and Wickedneſs, as ever it was famous for Piety Zeal and Godlineſs; for the Ephah of its Sins ſeems to be faſt filling, and that the Talent of Lead, which is God's Wrath, will be fixed upon it; which I pray God of his infinite Mercy for Chriſt's ſake may prevent, by giving a Spirit of Repentance to all Ranks in it, both Miniſters and People, and that the Lord may ſave his Miniſters there, from the Curſe of the Idol Shepherds, ſpoken of by the Prophet *Zechariah*, whoſe Right Eye was dried up, and their Arm withered. O that the Lord would make them ſet the Trumpet to their Mouths, to Cry aloud and not to ſpare, to tell

his People their Sins, and their Tranſgreſſions, when the Lord is ſeeking for ſome that ſhould make up the Hedge, and ſtand in the Gape before the Lord for the Land, that he may not Deſtroy it, by the Sword of a Foreign and Cruel Enemy, upon the back of ſo many God provocking and Conſcience waſting Sins, as have abounded and do yet abound in the Land.

I Conclude with my hearty good Wiſhes, to all the Lord's People in that Place: and am your moſt affectionat Friend.

November 12,
1734.

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